

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. An Office Action mailed May 6, 2004 objected to the oath/declaration, drawings, specification, and Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and under 35 U.S.C. § 102. By way of this amendment, Applicant hereby submits a new oath/declaration, and amends the specification and Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.111, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

OATH/DECLARATION

The Office Action noted that the oath/declaration was defective. Applicant hereby submits that the missing text pertains to claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120, and applicant points out that at the end of the partial paragraph appearing on page 2 indicates that no claim for benefit was made. There was no intent on applicants' part to deceive the Patent Office and that the missing text was inadvertent. Therefore, applicant submits that the oath or declaration filed on November 3, 2000, complies with all the subsections of 37 C.F.R. §1.63.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant hereby submits an amendment to the specification in order to overcome the objection to the drawings.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Office Action objected to the specification for including informalities. Applicant hereby amends the specification in order to correct the noted informalities.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Office Action objected to Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 due to informalities. Applicant hereby amends Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 in order to correct the noted informalities, thereby rendering this objection moot.

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REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant hereby amends Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 in order for the claims to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7 as being clearly anticipated by Brown et al. (hereinafter Brown). The Office Action states that Brown discloses a document signing system that allows digitally signing of blocks of text of a document. The Office Action also states that Brown discloses selecting an acceptance option (col. 13, lines 22-27). With regard to amended independent Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that at block 316 of FIGURE 3, the document 102 is displayed to the user to allow accepting of any edits or modifications made to the document (col. 13, lines 13-21). Applicant submits that Brown fails to teach or suggest that the user can select an option from a list of options consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option. Brown is motivated to allow a user to edit a document and then accept the edits that they have made. Brown teaches the signing of specific blocks of text and not agreeing or disagreeing to blocks of text and signing the entire document. Therefore, Applicant submits that Brown would not be motivated to include both an acceptance and a decline option, because they are not going to decline their own edits. If they were to decline their edits, they would just not accept any edits.

Therefore, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is allowable over Brown. Amended independent Claims 3, 5, and 7 are similar to amended independent Claim 1 and therefore are allowable for the same reasons that make Claim 1 allowable. Because Claims 2, 4, and 6 depend from allowable independent Claims 1, 3, and 5, they are allowable for the same reasons that make their corresponding independent claims allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

08-06-04
Date of Deposit

Robert Davidson

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